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UNISEARCH LIMITED

## COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits the partial European search report under Rule 46(1) EPC relating to the above-mentioned European patent application.

Copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the following:

The search Division informs the applicant that if the European search report is also to cover inventions other than the invention first mentioned in the claims, a further search fee must be paid for each of these inventions, within ONE MONTH after notification of this communication.

If the application has been filed up to 30 June 1999, the search fee in force before 01 July 1999 (EUR 869,-) or the equivalent applicable on the date of payment is payable.

This applies also to the search fees requested under Rule 46(1) EPC.

See also OJ EPO 08/1999, 405.

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to the present communication.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.



Note to users of the automatic debiting procedure:

Unless the EPO receives prior instructions to the contrary, the search fee(s) will be debited on the last day of the period for payment. For further details see the Arrangements for the automatic debiting procedure, Supplement to OJ EPO 02/1999.

REGISTERED LETTER

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# **SUPPLEMENTARY PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**

under Rule 46, paragraph 1 of the European Patent Convention

Application Number

EP 98 91 8981

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
1 X	US 5 246 734 A (MICHAEL KEITH W ET AL) 21 September 1993 (1993-09-21) * column 6, line 52-63; claims 1,2; examples 1-4 *	1,4,6-8	C03C25/02
1 Y	US 4 418 984 A (BLAIR GEORGE R ET AL) 6 December 1983 (1983-12-06) * column 2, line 41 - column 3, line 18; claims 1,2,27-35 *	1-11	
1 Y	US 3 940 357 A (FAHEY DENNIS M) 24 February 1976 (1976-02-24) * column 2, line 26-44; claims 1-12 *	1-11	
3 Y	US 5 595 793 A (NEUBERGER WOLFGANG ET AL) 21 January 1997 (1997-01-21) * column 2, line 41-55; claims 1-5; examples 1,2 *	1-11	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			C03C G02B G02F
LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION			
<p>The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:</p> <p>see sheet B</p> <p>The present partial European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims.</p>			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
MUNICH		5 July 2001	Maurer, R
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
<p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			



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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION  
SHEET B**

Application Number

EP 98 91 8981

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

**1. Claims: 1-11**

The subject-matter of independent claim 1 and respective claims (claims 2-11) is concentrated on a METHOD OF COATING on a non-planar substrate (fibers) wherein

- a non directional gaseous deposition technique (CVD) in combination with
- a substantially static deposition geometry of the substrate (fiber) is used and wherein especially ZnO is used as coating material.

The core of the invention provides a specific coating method to achieve a substantially continuous circumferential coating of the non-planar substrate.

**2. Claim : 12**

The subject-matter of independent claim 12 is concentrated on a RECEPTACLE for optical fibers which comprises

- a substantially planar heating surface and
- a clamping means for clamping the fibers onto the heating surface.

The core of the invention provides a receptacle which clumps the fiber at one end of the heating surface during the deposition of the coating such that any movement of the free end of the fiber is limited.

**3. Claims: 13-15**

The subject-matter of independent claim 13 and respective claims (claims 14-15) is concentrated on an acusto-optical PHASE MODULATOR having a specific high efficiency.

The core of the invention provides an acusto-optic phase modulator exhibiting increased phase modulation characteristics.

The present application with the amended claims attached to the IPER lacks unity since three unrelated inventions are claimed. Neither the combination of the essential features nor the inherent problems to be solved (and consequently also the corresponding solutions thereof) of groups of invention are linked as to form a single general inventive concept. Furthermore there is no technical connection within the solutions of the different inventions which gives expression to common inventive features.

It is stated that common features within the groups of invention which are already known by the state of the art, for instance the "method of coating" (each group falls within the scope of this expression) cannot per se justify the single general inventive concept.

# ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 98 91 8981

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

05-07-2001

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